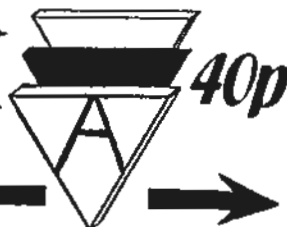


LESBIAN & GAY FREEDOM MOVEMENT

Newsletter 6 - Summer 92



END PROSECUTION FOR MUTUAL SEX!

OPERATION SPANNER MEN STILL NEED OUR SUPPORT!

"Operation Spanner" was the name the Obscene Publications Squad (O.P.S.) gave to their operation which led to the convictions of 15 gay men for mutual S.M. (SadoMasochistic) sex - as we reported in our last newsletter. As a result, some were given long prison sentences for 'assault'. 5 of the men appealed against their convictions, and the Appeal Court heard their case in February this year. The mens consent was found to be no defence against the 'assault' and the appeal was lost. The case is now going to the Law Lords.

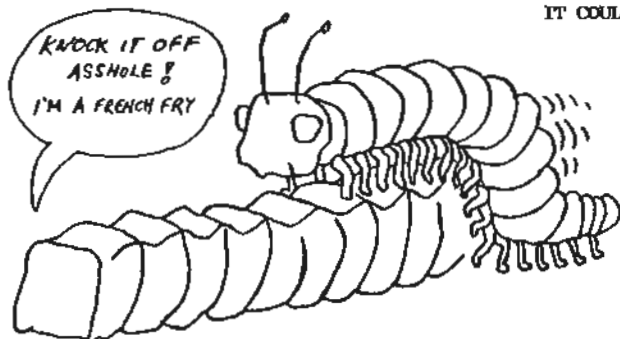
The O.P.S. is actually called "The Obscene Publications and Public Morals Squad - nothing to do with protecting people from real assault, but everything to do with keeping people morally in line. The O.P.S. were actually hoping to start yet another persecution of people owning child pornography, but instead came across home-made videos of mutual (consensual) S.M. sex. They decided that this kind of sex "disgusted" them, and that these men must be punished for their sexuality. As these men had all been having consensual adult sex in private, the police couldn't use the usual sex offence laws. They had to twist another law around to get a conviction, and they decided on 'assault'.

The Appeal Court judges (Lane, Rose & Potts) ruled that any sex play that leaves a mark lasting more than a few minutes - and that could be a love bite! - is 'assault'. A judge in the case made clear his homo-hate with the sincere wish that having been arrested and thrown in prison, these men who have fun playing with men will be cured not just of their S.M. tendencies, but also of their homosexuality!

Enjoyment of sexual pain or domination either in fact or in fantasy is something a very large proportion of the population likes - whether they are gay or not. If people enjoy mutual S.M. sex with each other, it is nobody elses business, especially that of the criminal law!

LGFM BELIEVES THAT MUTUAL SEX OF ANY KIND SHOULD NEVER BE AGAINST THE LAW.

**DON'T TELL THE POLICE ANYTHING ABOUT
YOUR OWN OR OTHER PEOPLES SEX LIVES -
IT COULD EASILY BE USED AGAINST YOU!**



**LGFM,
BM BOX 207,
LONDON,
WC1N 3XX.**

FREE BEN WILSON

BEN WILSON WINS NEW RIGHTS FOR PRISONERS

We wrote an article in the last newsletter about Ben, who has been in prison since 1973 for having sex with boyfriends under 16. Ben won a case against the British Government at the European Court of Human Rights in 1990, but the government still haven't released him. However, his case has forced the government to amend the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and establish a new fairer review system for discretionary life prisoners. From October 1992, prisoners will be entitled to see the reports written about them, put their case to a tribunal of the Parole Board, and have legal representation and legal aid.

The government has had to change its grossly unfair system because of Ben, and it's no surprise that they are still finding excuses to keep him locked up. Ben Wilson must be freed now!

LETTER FROM BEN WILSON

Dear LGFM,

A copy of your Newsletter No.5 has been passed on to me, and the article referring to me puts the matter in a nutshell.

My case was considered by a judicial review on 23 July 1991, but owing to a decision in another earlier case, the court was bound by that previous ruling. Hints were thrown out by the judges that I should have an expedited appeal, so that the appeal judges can overturn the previous ruling.

Yours sincerely, Ben Wilson.

END THE PROSECUTIONS OF PEOPLE FOR HAVING CONSENSUAL SEX WITH ANIMALS !!

In September 91, a woman who had sexual relationships with three dogs - two Great Danes and an Alsatian - was jailed for 3 months after being found guilty on the ridiculous charge of "attempted buggery with a dog". It was yet another case where the consent or not of those having sex didn't affect the judgement.

THE CONTINUING STORY OF FREDDIE THE DOLPHIN...

In December 1991, an animal rights activist, Alan Cooper, who campaigns against dolphins being kept in captivity was found NOT guilty on charges that he had "outraged public decency by committing an act of lewd, obscene, or disgusting nature" by allegedly wanking a dolphins cock in public. The defence successfully argued that dolphins use their willies for non-sexual things like "catching fish" or simply as "a finger of friendship", so the fact that Alan was seen touching the dolphins cock did not necessarily mean that he was trying to sexually stimulate him. But surely people shouldn't be prosecuted for having mutual sex with a dolphin anyway. The idea of swimming with Freddie - the 12ft bottle-nose dolphin involved in this case - who enjoys towing friendly humans along with his erect cock certainly turns me on sexually! And there is nothing wrong with that!



Why is sex with animals illegal anyway? It certainly isn't because the state has any worries about animals not consenting. In a society where it is perfectly legal to make animals live all their lives in factory farms and then kill them, hunt animals, and torture animals with vivisection. The law isn't there to protect animals, but to make humans conform sexually. Indeed in times gone by it was customary for the authorities to kill animals after a sex with animals conviction.

6 YEARS FOR BEING LESBIAN !

Jennifer Saunders is yet another person imprisoned by the British State for living her life in a way that it regards as morally undesirable. On 21st September 1991 she was given a 6 year sentence for mutual lesbian sex! Doncaster Crown Court convicted her of "Indecent Assault" using the following legal excuses:

-One of her girlfriends was "under age" at the time (15, whilst Jennifer was 16 or 17), although in heterosexual cases this is normally overlooked when both "parties" are about a year either side of 16.

-She allegedly kept up a pretence to her girlfriends that she was a man whilst fucking them with a strap-on dildo! It seems that this deception was considered to have invalidated the womens consent in the eyes of the court.

Jennifer says that she never pretended to either of the women that she was a man. However it seems that she did make this pretence to the family of Rebecca Andrews (one of her girlfriends). Jennifer says that this was because Rebecca was scared of her family finding out that she was lesbian, and that it was to protect Rebecca from her family that Jennifer went along with her story in court. No doubt Jennifer would have put up more of a defence if she'd known that 6 years of her life were at stake!

Judge Jonathan Crabtree proved his homo-hate by stating that Jennifers' girlfriends would have been better able to cope with their "assault" if they had been raped by a man!! This is the kind of ignorant bigot that the state employs to "protect us from injustice"! So often the legal system carries out injustice under this guise of protecting us from it. But who was protected in this case? Obviously not Jennifer, so what about her girlfriends?

Crabtree was right when he said that Jennifers' girlfriends had had a lot to cope with: They'll have undergone family traumas, police "interviews", court appearances and the patronising exposure of the mass media. They'll have been forced to deny their real selves, and to betray a friend. But these things have not been inflicted on them by Jennifer, rather by those who'd claim to "protect" them from her, those who claim to care, by the interfering uncle who called in the police, and by the homo-hating society that surrounds them.

So is there any justification for Jennifers imprisonment?? I've heard no suggestion that any of the alleged sex in this case was anything other than mutual (consensual). It also seems quite unbelievable that Rebecca could really have thought that Jennifer was a man throughout their 18 month relationship which involved 6 months living together and allegedly having sex. It seems even more unlikely when you consider that Jennifer tells us that she has 36 double-D breasts! But even if Jennifer had deceived her partners about her sex she should not have been imprisoned. I believe that Jennifer has been given this 6 year sentence by a homo-hating judge for nothing other than mutual lesbian sex. She must be freed!

FREE JENNIFER SAUNDERS

LGFM activists in London have been campaigning in support of Jennifer, and towards an end to state interference in our sex lives. We hope to have a demonstration immediately after Jennifers appeal (possibly the second week in June). Following a mail-out to a number of other anarchist sexual liberation groups around the world we have had letters of support from The Netherlands, France, Spain and the USA, with the possibility of solidarity demonstrations being organised in Amsterdam and Berlin!

Also involved in campaigns to support Jennifer in this country are LABIA (c/o Outrage!, LLGC, 67-69 Cowcross Street, London EC1) and The Lesbian Information Service (P.O.Box 8, Todmorton, Lancs., OL14 5TZ). **Support Jennifer by writing:** Jennifer Saunders GD0148, HM Prison & YO1, Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 4HD.

DEMOCRACY = CAPITALISM

So, the Tories are in power for another five years. It may be a little worse for us under Conservative rule, than having the Social Democrats or Labour; but the difference between the parties is actually so small, that any election result would be dreadful. All the parties would have promoted the patriarchal (men over women over children power structure) family unit, all would have had yet more police snooping into our lives, arresting us for mutual sex, continue to force children into unpaid schooling, keep the troops in Ireland, bomb Iraq and Libya, support the U.S. and U.N. in their world police roles, and most importantly keep the capitalist system limping on by continuing the exploitation of ordinary peoples' labour in the workplace.

Yet some of the lesbian & gay press were disgustingly asking its readers to forget all these other important issues and "VOTE PINK"! They tried to encourage people to vote for candidates who either are lesbian or gay themselves, or who support lesbian & gay "rights". It didn't matter which party they were standing for, nor what their views were on any other issues! What they failed to point out is that 'pink' people can be racist, sexist, bigoted - or even fascist. Peoples sexuality does not necessarily influence their politics in a progressive way. Lesbians & gays can have very conservative attitudes about sex and relationships, some are even encouraging us to marry each other! Lets not delude ourselves that lesbians, gays, or bisexuals have any 'better' attitudes to sex or sexuality than heterosexuals.

The campaign seemed to come from that minority of lesbians & gays who live their lives mostly in isolation from heterosexuals; with only lesbian & gay friends; lesbian & gay jobs; only go to lesbian & gay pubs & clubs; and have 'respectable' lesbian or gay relationships! Most of us live in the real world of police harassment; poll tax snoopers; trying to live on a low income; struggling to pay the rent; we go to our local pub; and have heterosexual friends. In fact we have so much in common with heterosexual people who are also being oppressed by the ruling class. What the lesbian & gay press should be calling for is sex and sexuality liberation for EVERYONE - now that might get support from all sections of society. Oh dear, that would mean that they - the 'pink' people - would have to talk to those nasty straights!!!

IN BRITAIN ONLY 1 IN 5 PEOPLE VOTE FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

In Democratic Britain, only a half of the population votes (30 million), of which the winning party gets about 40% of the vote. So, only 1 in 5 people actually vote for the government from a very limited choice. If you are under 18, or in prison, or want to avoid paying the poll tax by not being on the electoral register, or don't have a British passport - you're forbidden to vote. In Democratic Britain, the unelected House of Lords keeps landowners and the clergy in power, and the unelected monarchy is still the head of state.

Now that the democratic process has finished for another few years, anarchists should be showing up what a farce elections are. That democracy is designed not to give any meaningful power to ordinary people, but instead to give us the illusion that we have power. It's used to keep the capitalist system going by pretending that it's demanded by the people, whereas in fact a choice of political system is never given under democracy. Anarchists must convince more people that voting for ANY party only gives more credibility to the capitalist system. Lets aim for a mass abotention and spoiling of ballot papers at all elections; inspire people to take power into their own hands; organise in workplaces and communities to take control away from the bosses, the police, and the government. It's a mistake to wait for those in power to give us our "rights" - we must instead campaign for our liberation from all rulers.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER BY SENDING US YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, ALONG WITH £5 WAGED OR £3 UNWAGED (CASH OR BLANK P/O AS WE DON'T WANT A BANK ACCOUNT). IT'S FREE IF YOU REALLY CAN'T AFFORD IT. WE'LL SEND THE NEXT 4 ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER WHENEVER THEY'RE PRODUCED. **OR EVEN BETTER, BECOME A SUPPORTER** - NO EXTRA COST, BUT SEND FOR OUR DEMANDS LEAFLET TO SEE IF YOU AGREE WITH EVERYTHING ON IT...

WRITE TO: LGFM, BM BOX 207, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

LETTER FROM THAILAND

BUS BOYS

JUMP, BUS COMES TO HALT

RED DUST ON JEANS & TRAINERS

SMOOTH-SKINNED LIMBS GRAB BASKETS AND RICE SACKS.

WOMAN ? BOY ? GIRL ? MAN ? TRANSEXUAL ?

WHY DO I NOTICE ? NOBODY ELSE SEEMS TO.

I'M FROM DEMOCRATIC BRITAIN.

THEY'RE SHOWN TO A SEAT, CARRYING CARDBOARD CARTON

ROAR OF ENGINE, JOLLY THAI POP SONG, CLUCKING NOISE FROM BOX,

"WAI!" FROM BUSBOYS LEAPING BACK ON BOARD

ARMS AND LEGS INTERTWINE, COCK AGAINST ARSE.

WHY DO I STILL NOTICE IT ? NO-ONE ELSE DOES.

KINNOCK ? MAJOR ? ASHDOWN ?

DEMOCRACY MEANS CHOOSING WHO RUNS CAPITALISM

BALLOT BOX NEVER ASKS- CAPITALISM ? SOCIALISM ? COMMUNISM ? ANARCHISM ?

MAJORITY IN RUSSIA WANT COMMUNISM - DEMOCRACY DOES NOT PERMIT THAT

SHARP KNIFE PIERCES BOX

BIRD IN A BAD MOOD PIERCES MY SKIN THROUGH AIR HOLES

NO, I'M NOT DREAMING

TICKET SELLER MOVES DOWN BUS

SHE STROKES BOYBODIES.

OVERTAKING AT WILL, PUBLIC TRANSPORT RULES THE ROADS

BOYS FLAPPING ARMS AS WE RETURN TO LEFT SIDE OF ROAD

HOLDING ON WITH ONE ARM AND SOMETIMES A FOOT

ONE ARM OVER THE OTHERS SHOULDER

STROKING, SINGING EVERGETICALLY TO THE MUSIC

NO SUCH THING AS CAMP AND MACHO HERE!

THE MILITARY HAVE OVERTHROWN THE ELECTED CORRUPT GOVERNMENT

BY DEMAND FROM THE BUSBOYS, TICKET SELLERS, PASSENGERS...

HELLO! PEN YANG NGAI ? ANGRIT ?

MY ANARCHIST IDEAS RESPECTED/UNDERSTOOD

EVERYONE DISCUSSING - DO WE WANT DEMOCRACY HERE ?

OFFERS ME STICKY RICE / CHICKEN KEBAB / FRIED BANANA

IT'S A SO-CALLED THIRD-WORLD COUNTRY. PRICES DON'T CHANGE.

BRITAINS CAPITALIST MARKETPLACE HAS EVER INCREASING PRICES FOR...

BLAND SHRINK-WRAP POTATO!

VISITING A MUSEUM

BETWEEN CASES OF PORCELAIN & BUDDHAS

ARE WOMEN & GIRL GUIDES

FONDLING, KISSING, HANDS WANKING UNDER DRESSES.

WHY DO I KEEP NOTICING ? MY GUIDE DOESN'T.

DEMOCRACY EQUALS CAPITALISM NEEDS DEMOCRACY

TO STOP REVOLUTION, TO STOP ANARCHISM, TO STOP FREEDOM.

GAUDY MOBILES & PLASTIC FLOWERS

GIRLS & BOYS WEAR SAME COLOURS , MEN WEAR DRESSES,

SEXUALITY LABELLING UNNECESSARY HERE

REDS, YELLOWS, GOLDS.....BUDDHISM

MAKING MONEY, OR HAVING TOO MUCH WEALTH IS WRONG.....

CAPITALISM IS WRONG

MILITARY SEIZED CORRUPT POLITICIANS ASSETS!

WOULD NEVER HAPPEN IN WESTERN DEMOCRACIES.

I TASTE LIBERATION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE

ON BUSES, IN MUSEUMS, IN ORDINARY PEOPLES MINDS...

AND THEY DON'T HAVE DEMOCRACY!



>>>> Play the lgfm sexuality

At LGFM's last open meeting called "Passion", we had great fun playing a "sexual revelations" game, ate lots of cake(!), watched a very moving play about sexual jealousy, and took part in a game about sexuality labelling. This game was in the form of a drama which people read out, then everyone wrote down a sexuality label for each of the characters in the drama, and finally we all discussed the different labels given. The purpose of the game was to get people thinking about why we label people, and to look at the advantages and disadvantages of labelling ourselves and other people.

We thought it would be interesting to reprint the drama in this newsletter, so that our readers can take part in the game, and widen discussion on this issue. The drama has 13 characters in it - Sandie, Steve, Alison, Freda, Freddie, Fred, Louise, Simone, Nathaniel, Sarah, Sam, Evelyn and James. What we'd like readers to do is to read the drama which follows, and then write down the labels you'd give to each character (eg lesbian, transexual, queer, anything you'd use to describe that persons sexuality). Then send your list of names & their identities, anonymously, to us at LGFM, BM BOX 207, LONDON, WC1N 3XX. We will print all your ideas for labels in the next newsletter. Also if you'd like to send us your thoughts about the drama or the issue of sexuality labelling, then that would be great too! The drama begins

SEXUALITY LABELLING DRAMA

SANDIE You know it's funny, we always say how it's bad to label people, but then we always do it anyway. But I wouldn't know how to label some people, like myself for example : how would you label me ? I love cocks - I get so turned-on when I see my lovers cock, I just want to jump on it! I love the feel of lace on my body, I love to shave my legs and slip on silky black stockings. I love the feel of suspenders on my thighs. I like to paint my nails and wear lip gloss. But enough about me, you wouldn't be any easier to label either, would you Steve?

STEVE At school the boys hung around with the boys, the girls were with the girls, and I liked it like that. I felt quite betrayed when some of my mates started going with girls. What was I to do - I just wasn't interested. I discovered the gay scene in my teens and have been involved with campaigning in the community ever since. I've had great sex with my boyfriends : imagine my surprise when I fell in love with a woman.

SANDIE So what does that make him?
And Alison is another person who's relationships involve both sexes

ALISON I've worked in the sex industry for a long time. Sex with men is just a job to me, but I enjoy the fact that so many of my clients seem to appreciate my efforts. Sometimes I even get a little sexual thrill out of it. But it's not in the same class as sex with women. When I'm with a woman I never think of anything else - I wouldn't dream of asking for money!

SANDIE So many different sorts of people! When I first knew Freda, she and her lover Louise were causing a sensation at college with their passionate affair. Ten years later I ran into them again. They were still together; but I was surprised to find that Freda now liked to be known as Freddie, and was decked out just like a man.

FRED My names Fred now. Louise and I are very disappointed that we can't be officially married : even after changing all the documents and having the surgery and everything. Still, our relationship is more passionate than ever since I can now be myself.

SIMONE My image to the outside world is important too. When people see my white hair and walking stick, they can't imagine that I ever think about sex. Little do they know Back in the 30's I was an erotic dancer, and I was the best in Berlin. I learned early to enjoy the way men loved to look at my body, and I think some of the women enjoyed it too.

labelling game ~ BY POST! <<<<

When I undress, my curtains are never closed. When I moved here I got a particular thrill from knowing that Nathaniel, the boy from next door, was watching me from the dark. Didn't I give him a fright the night I looked him in the eye. He didn't turn me down when I invited him inside. Two years later he still looks at me like I'm the sexiest woman on earth, while I'm enjoying his lithe young body.

NATHANIEL My best relationships have always been with women a lot older than me. I've been with girls my own age, but it's never the same. I like to explore an older woman's body from head to toe, I love feeling the wrinkles of her skin. An older woman's face has character. That's why I couldn't believe my luck the night Simone invited me in. Wow! She was really hot. I can't imagine a woman my age responding the same way.

SANDIE Nathaniel's not the only person I know who's into older people. My neighbour's daughter Sarah was telling me as I walked her home from school yesterday:

SARAH I really wish I could be friends with the headmaster, rather than those stupid boys, I get fed up with them - they're always talking about sex but haven't a clue about it. I bet the headmaster is very experienced

SANDIE Not everyone I know is crazy for sex. You're not, are you Sam?

SAH No, you may think it strange that I campaign for lesbian and gay liberation when I've never been attracted to someone of my own sex. Hell! I've never been attracted to anyone - really sex doesn't interest me at all. I can't understand why people get turned-on.

EVELYN Well, that is an interesting question - what is sex anyway? After all, I get real stimulation and satisfaction every time my baby needs breast-feeding. I love the feel of his hard gums, you know it's even getting better now his teeth are coming through.

SANDIE And last of all, there's James. I didn't know quite what to make of what he told me

JAMES I like to feel that a woman would do anything for me. I like her to beg for it, I like to have her under my control, and I want to see that she likes it too. I like her to show appreciation.

Q. WHAT DO YOU CALL A LESBIAN WHO'S A LONG WAY OFF?
A. DOT.

INFORMATION

ANSLIM, Box A, 34 Cowley Rd, Oxford, OX4 1HZ. A general sexual liberation campaigning group, they produce a newsletter called 'Beyond Sexuality' (50p), and have a mixed discussion group which meets in Oxford.

GIRL FRENZY MAGAZINE A new radical young women's magazine with an anarcho and sex-lib bent - recommended! From BM Senior, London, WC1N 3XX.

QUIM MAGAZINE is a lesbian sex magazine, published in the U.K. Issue 3 is now on sale and we think it's really good - if you can find a shop that will stock it! If you can't, but want one, send £3 to Quim, BM Box 2182, London, WC1N 3XX.

PROMOTE AND SURVIVE! PO Box 73, Norwich. They are putting together a pamphlet written about and by gays, lesbians & bisexuals who are involved in radical politics or lifestyles. They are wanting contributions - write for more details.

TENTH NATIONAL BISEXUAL CONFERENCE - Norwich 28/29/30 August 1992.
Details from Bicon, c/o Bifrost, PO Box 117, Norwich, NR1 2SU.

THE VIEWS OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF LGFM.

WHY I DON'T NEED TO BE TIED UP

Although I have been enjoying sex for many years, I have retained an idealistic view of how it could be. For me this ideal consisted of bodies and minds coming together "organically": each knowing what the other body's needs are and responding accordingly, not necessarily without words but without the one asking anything of the other.

I have always wanted to give pleasure to my lovers, and for me a large part of my own pleasure has been in giving to their bodies what my body feels they need, knowing what to do without being told. By the same token I didn't wish to ask my lovers for what I wanted, craving the "organic" experience, which meant that I was more often the more active sexual partner.

It was not only this ideal that stopped me from asking - for a long time it was hard for me to admit even to myself what kind of sex my body craved. It was my fantasy to be dominated sexually, for my body to be my lover's object of pleasure, to give up control to my lover because only then could I surrender to that lover's pleasure and mine.

I have always had difficulty in losing control, from a difficulty in urinating to an inability to "get off" on psychedelics, to a difficulty in having orgasms with lovers (though, interestingly, not on my own although this experience, for me, was never "losing control").

My submissive fantasies usually involved one person - my "master" - doing his or her will with my body. This might involve my being beaten or fucked/penetrated by my "master" and/or others invited by him/her to join in. I might submit through force, restraint, pecking order e.g. school fantasies, or simple fear. I particularly enjoyed reading erotic stories that involved the submission of one partner to the other through no more than love itself.

Early attempts to realise my fantasies of being controlled (so I could lose my own control) involved trying out bondage, a practice which had been included in my sexual fantasies. The idea was an exciting one to both me and my then partner so we decided to put it into practice. And, to an extent, it "worked" - when tied up and "unable to resist", suspending my disbelief for this "game" as when reading fiction, I was able to reach orgasm at the hands and mouth of my lover. The drawbacks of this were that I became unable to orgasm with my partner if not restrained, and that the necessary suspension of disbelief was difficult, especially when my partner wished to be tied up reciprocally.

After reading more about dominance and submission as part of sex I began to see my interest in bondage not as a mere aid to release but as a manifestation of my need to be dominated as an essential part of my sexual enjoyment. However, although I still enjoyed fantasising about being tied up for sex, I began to find it unsatisfactory in actual sexual encounters because tying someone up with consent seems too much like a game; because of my wish for sex to be "organic" rather than "manufactured", sexual games are not entirely satisfactory for me although they can be fun and even fulfilling.

Now I am happy and fulfilled as the submissive partner in a sexual relationship which contains dominant and submissive roles. When my lover and I first got together, I suddenly realised that I no longer had any need or wish to be tied up. When my soon-to-be lover propositioned me saying "I want to fuck you but I am going to need all night" I knew that at last here was someone who really wanted my body and knew what it needed, someone whom I could trust to take control of me and take me, someone to whom I could give myself wholeheartedly and with no more than promises to bind me.

BOOK REVIEWS

Policing the Bedroom and how to refuse it

by Wages Due Lesbians

PO Box 287, London, NW6 5QU.

At £1.95, Policing the Bedroom is a bargain for this small collection of essays, letters, and quotations connecting Clause 28 to other oppressions in society. It does have it's weaknesses, though. For one thing, gay women are never "lesbians", but rather "lesbian women", as if we might confuse them with "lesbian men". For another thing, the book doesn't quite live up to its title - it isn't really specifically about "policing the bedroom," and it certainly doesn't tell you "how to refuse it."

Particularly disturbing is a quotation from a letter written by a member of Wages Due Lesbians: "Having a lesbian relationship is one way Black women have used to fight rape and to protect our children from rape." This sounds a bit too much like the traditional advice to women that we should marry men in order to protect ourselves from other men. But having a lesbian relationship doesn't protect you from violence - leaving aside the fact that some lesbians batter their partners, there is also the fact that being a lesbian can sometimes expose you to particular homophobic violence. Women might live with each other as roommates in order to get away from violent husbands, but that doesn't mean those women have to have sex with each other.

But these things are only quibbles. However ill-considered a handful of words in the book may be, it's worth the two quid just to see some of the amazing quotes in it. And WDL do have a point - all that sexual repression is connected to all the other oppression.

Pornography and Feminism: The Case Against Censorship

by Feminists Against Censorship

BM Box 207, London, WC1N 3XX.

(edited by Gillian Rodgers & Elizabeth Wilson)

This book seems a little bit slim for £4.99, but it's good to see a feminist group finally countering all the rubbish the anti-pornography people have been saying. The FAC women have provided a nice little historical perspective on the way sexually-oriented material has been handled through the ages, why there's no point in trusting the government or even feminists to "control" pornography, and how feminists have analysed sexism in the media. There is some useful ammunition in this book to use against anti-porn campaigners, and it makes some good criticisms of them. One could have hoped for something a bit more challenging, but at least Feminists Against Censorship recognize that sex work is hardly the only - or the worst - example of exploitation in our culture, and that pornography often has more to recommend it than many other, less controversial, aspects of society. Pornography and Feminism would make a perfect present to anyone who has been getting information from the pro-censorship campaigners. It's about time someone told it like it is.

SEX MANIACS DIARY

SEX MANIACS DIARY has been published every year since 1973. It lists loads of groups and clubs including LGFM! Here's a quote from the diary which seems to sum up the publishers views. "We should pity anti-sex people, especially as they seem to have no sense of humour either, no joy. They make the world seem grey. Sex haters censor our world in insidious ways, even using child rape as a reason to ban harmless pleasure. We must be clear about these pressures on us and never let them inhibit us or instil groundless guilt or shame" It costs a lot (£4.95), but considering how much is in it, it seems good value if you can afford it. To order a copy, write to Miss Tuppy Owens, PO Box 42B, London, W1A 4ZB.

I'M A HOMOSEXUAL TWINKLE

BY YOUNG GAY ANARCHIST (18).

I'm a homosexual twinkle,
In a heterosexual fathers eye,
Soon to become a homosexual sperm,
Swimming by & by.

I'm a homosexual embryo,
Growing in a heterosexual womb,
Becoming foetus then baby
And not too soon.

Before I'm a homosexual baby
Born in a heterosexual world,
Growing up with heterosexual parents,
As a homosexual child.

Unexplained homosexual fantasies,
Go through my homosexual mind,
Whilst heterosexual principals,
Are all that I can find.

As a homosexual teenager,
In a heterosexual world,
I look hard for love,
Picking up what I've heard.



poems

I look for homosexual men,
In the toilets and the park
But all I can find
Are old homosexuals groaning in the dark.

One day another homosexual boy
Comes out to me in school,
And now we're two homosexual boys
In this heterosexual school,

Two homosexual boys
Soon become three
Cowering in this heterosexual world,
Trying to get people to see.

That we homosexual teenagers,
In this heterosexual world,
Need homosexual love,
To be happy on our Earth.

~~~~~  
Walking round town, eating fish & chips  
Skinny Bitches whispering, "Look at her hips.  
If I was that fat I wouldn't dare.  
God you can't help but stare."  
Who needs to be skinny? That's what I say.  
Go back to your salads three times a day.  
Fish & chips is what I like  
I'm a beautiful big fat dyke.

## letters

Thanks for the two newsletters you sent me..... I'm looking forward to receiving the next newsletter because the two I've already read have changed the way I look at a lot of things. It was almost as though walls started coming down inside my head. It may be trite to say so, but it's true. The police crackdown on the Scat Club for example I'd have supported at one time without even thinking. "I personally find it disgusting, therefore it's right that it should be stopped". A reflex reaction that I can now see as just that. I am still uncertain about a lot of things I read about, but again, at one time I wouldn't even have recognised that there was more than one response to some of the things discussed in the newsletters.....Finally, thanks again, I'm converted. Best wishes for 1992.

Dear LGFM,  
We are a lesbian, gay and bisexual youth group for 21 & under and offer fun, friendship, advice, support and love, and hope to have a wide range of social events and a newsletter. We love to hear from any young lesbian, gay & bisexual, so write to our address: YOUNG PRIDE, Box No.37, 82 Culston St, Bristol, BS1 5BB.



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**MIDSUMMERS NIGHT OUTDOOR THEATRE!**  
A fun play about cruising & sexual liberation, called "Tea Trolley" is being performed on Clapham Common at midnight 21 June in London. Head towards the lights from Clapham Common Tube Station! Free - Donations appreciated.

# LAW REFORM OR LIBERATION?

Is campaigning against a new anti-lesbian & gay law a good way for people to realise that they do have power to change things; or alternatively is it a way for people to go along with the system as it is, rather than questioning it and working toward abolishing it?

Take Clause 25 (which gave longer sentences for mutual lesbian & gay 'offences'), some anarchists joined in the campaign against it. Certainly this is a nasty law, but the campaign against it was very much along the lines of wanting lesbians & gays to be excluded from the list of offences getting longer sentences. By doing this, it's almost supporting lengthy imprisonment for 'offenders' as long as the offences are not lesbian or gay. Shouldn't anarchists be against locking people up in the first place?

On a recent demonstration about employment discrimination, marchers demanded that a senior policewoman should be allowed to keep her job because being a lesbian was irrelevant to her abilities to do her job. Whilst this may be true, wouldn't it have been better to publicise that the police force is a weapon of control and oppression. By its nature it is macho, its function is to implement many unjust laws (not just lesbian & gay ones), and generally to keep people in their place. It's hardly surprising if the police are homophobic. To try to get lesbians and gays accepted into the police is not a move toward freedom for lesbians or gays or anyone else for that matter.

Likewise the recent campaign to try to stop discrimination against lesbians & gays in the armed forces isn't just about employment discrimination, it's saying its right for lesbians and gays to kill other people for Queen and country.

These campaigns have really just supported the establishments oppressive system, only challenging it on the way it discriminates against lesbians and gays. It sounds a bit obvious when you say it, but the capitalist state, which by its very nature is both racist and sexist (based on some groups in society having power over others) is hardly going to be on the side of sexual freedom. Trying to raise the issue of the role of the police, armed forces, and imprisonment may help people think beyond the issue of discrimination against lesbians & gays, and actually start questioning the institutions themselves. This would certainly help in the struggle for liberation.

LESBIAN & GAY  
PRIDE MARCH 1992

MARCH WITH LGFM  
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Everyone of all sexes & sexualities are welcome to join the Lesbian & Gay Freedom Movement contingent on this years march on Saturday 27 June. We will be meeting at 12 noon outside Temple Underground Station. This years 'celebration' calls itself 'Europride', and appears to have no progressive political demands, and it implies that lesbians & gays support the EEC. We feel that a celebration on the streets of our sexualities is a great idea, but whilst more and more of us are being jailed for mutual sex, we should be demanding that the state releases all these prisoners, scrap all anti-lesbian & gay laws, and that the main slogan for the day should be 'lesbian & gay liberation!'.

We are planning to hand out leaflets with this theme, and also pointing out the racist nature of the EEC - that it will be even more difficult if you are black to gain entry to Europe, or travel within Europe, under planned tougher EEC immigration laws. And although we very much welcome greater links between lesbians & gays, progressive campaigning groups, and ordinary people across Europe (and more importantly the world), we are against yet another layer of capitalist government policing our lives. So, please join us, (with black anarchist flags and placards if possible), and make it a NOISY political demonstration for lesbian & gay liberation, against the governments of Britain and the EEC, and also have a lot of fun together!